

**COLUMBIA RIVER COMPACT
FACT SHEET
April 23, 2002**

Purpose: To consider Tribal Commercial Fishery Proposal.

TAC has not reviewed this fact sheet.

STOCK STATUS

- Preseason expectation was for a return of 333,700 spring chinook destined for above Bonneville Dam.
- Through April 22 only 54,800 adult spring chinook have passed Bonneville Dam.
- The TAC met on April 22 and updated the upriver spring chinook run size. The updated run size is now forecasted to be 250,000 at the mouth of the Columbia. TAC will meet again on April 25 and may update the run again at that time.
- The spring chinook run typically peaks at Bonneville Dam during mid to late April. TAC expects the run timing this year to be late.

SPRING CHINOOK MANAGEMENT

- Non Indian fisheries are estimated to have a 1.49% impact on wild upriver spring chinook through April 26 and 1.54% impact through April 30, compared to the 1.7% management objective. These impacts are based on the updated forecast. This is within the 2% allowed impact under the Interim Management Agreement.
- Treaty fisheries for 2001 will be now be managed according to the Interim Management Agreement to not to exceed a 11% impact rate on upriver wild spring chinook.
- Given the current forecast, the tribes expect to harvest 27,500 spring chinook. The Tribes have chosen to utilize their harvest in three fishery sectors: A ceremonial gillnet fishery, a subsistence platform fishery, and a commercial fishery. Estimated harvests for these sectors are shown in Table 1.
- Steelhead harvest has been minimal with an estimated catch of 100 in the platform fishery and very few in the permit fishery. Only a very small proportion of the 2002 summer steelhead run has entered Zone 6 so far. The tribes anticipate very low steelhead impacts in commercial openings as occurred in 2001.

Table 1

<i>Treaty Fishery Impacts For Upriver Spring Chinook</i>		
Fishery	Impacts	
	Catch Expectation to date	Projection to end of spring season
Ceremonial Gillnet Fishery (through 4/23)	6,000	6,800
Subsistence Platform Fishery (through 4/21)	500	4,800
First Commercial Fishery Opening (4/17-4/19)	7,500	7,500
Total to Date	14,000	
Total to End of Season		19,100
Allowable Impacts	27,500	27,500
Remaining Available Harvest	13,500	8,400

ZONE 6 COMMERCIAL FISHERY PROPOSAL

- The tribes will propose a commercial gillnet fishery opening that is projected to harvest up to 7,500 spring chinook. This opening combined with the other fishery impacts to date will not exceed the total allowable impacts for the tribal fishery.
- Additionally, the Yakama Nation will allow commercial sales of fish harvested in their tributary fisheries in the Klickitat River, Wind River and Big White Salmon River.
- Tribal staff will monitor the tributary fisheries as well as the Zone 6 gillnet and platform fisheries in order to assure proper total catch accounting.
- The tribes intend to use an aerial survey to measure effort during the next gillnet opening. The catch sold to buyers will be sampled for CWT's by state staff.
- After this opening, the tribes may propose additional fisheries dependant on the number of fish left available for harvest.

<i>Proposed Commercial Fishery</i>	
Area:	All of Zone 6
Dates:	6:00 AM Thursday April 25 to 6:00 PM Saturday April 27
Restrictions:	Allowable sales include chinook salmon, steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad. Commercial sales of platform caught fish are allowed during commercial openings. Sturgeon between 4 and 5 feet may be retained for subsistence use. All standard sanctuaries remain in effect with the exception of the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary which is not necessary at this time of year.